



# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1981

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**PHONE INQUIRIES** for more information about these statistics—contact Mr Geoff Winter on Canberra (062) 52 6576 or any of our State offices.

other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

**MAIL INQUIRIES** write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

During November 1981 approximately 919,200 working days were lost in 334 disputes involving the loss of 10 or more man days. This is the highest number of days lost in any month since June 1979 when 1,582,300 working days were lost.

The main dispute (over a shorter working week) involved metal product industry employees in five States. This dispute accounted for almost half of the working days lost in November, 1981.

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State and in the total for Australia. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual statistics.

### Related publications

5. Users may also wish to refer to the following publication:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)*—quarterly and annual.

6. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia (1101.0)*. The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice (1105.0)* which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

### Symbols and other usages

p preliminary—figure subject to revision  
r revised  
— nil or rounded to zero

7. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

### Introduction

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)*.

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in *Australian Standard Industrial Classification, 1978*, Vol. 1 (1201.0).

### Coverage

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

R. J. CAMERON  
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages(a) (\$'000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	Number(a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved(c)	
1978	2,276	2,277	1,075.6	1,075.6	2,130.8	2.0	78,404
1979	2,040	2,042	1,861.6	1,862.9	3,964.4	2.1	148,614
1980	2,420	2,429	1,165.2	1,172.8	3,320.2	2.8	152,022
<i>1980—</i>							
October	284	345	75.8	135.7	254.2	1.9	11,387
November	240	310	104.9	129.8	250.1	1.9	12,318
December	142	211	38.9	61.7	126.7	2.1	6,256
<i>1981—</i>							
January	156	184	50.3	64.9	89.8	1.4	4,531
February	261	317	84.9	126.4	318.8	2.5	15,738
March	269	338	71.0	105.2	248.1	2.4	13,279
April	199	269	46.1	91.5	176.2	1.9	9,765
May	276	341	67.6	107.7	216.4	2.0	11,301
June	236	313	r118.5	r167.6	r367.3	2.2	r19,372
July p	263	354	r95.0	r171.7	r510.8	r3.0	r26,295
August p	233	311	77.6	113.0	237.1	2.1	12,865
September p	299	360	106.2	141.6	342.2	2.4	19,889
October p	291	363	139.9	178.5	517.6	2.9	26,713
November(d) p	267	334	303.5	390.2	919.2	2.4	48,465

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month. (c) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures. (d) Excludes employees stood down as a result of a dispute involving meat inspectors.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing				Transport and storage; Communication			All industries
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Stevedoring services	Other	
	Coal	Other						
1978	142.3	125.1	732.1	490.2	134.1	122.9	166.9	2,130.8
1979	232.6	283.6	929.7	749.0	359.7	114.3	435.8	3,964.4
1980	710.7	197.7	615.9	728.4	217.9	73.4	142.5	3,320.2
<i>1980—</i>								
October	15.7	40.7	41.6	61.6	35.3	1.0	8.4	49.8
November	9.7	29.5	40.8	64.9	9.0	3.0	6.6	86.4
December	6.1	12.1	30.2	38.8	8.6	0.8	3.9	26.1
<i>1981—</i>								
January	4.8	4.8	12.9	11.9	6.6	2.2	5.3	41.3
February	12.7	39.5	47.8	22.8	16.9	5.7	39.3	318.8
March	21.7	41.4	98.7	16.0	24.7	5.3	25.8	14.5
April	12.6	9.8	68.5	12.3	28.6	7.1	18.1	176.2
May	11.6	29.2	109.6	16.8	23.2	3.5	11.4	216.4
June	34.3	22.8	r105.4	r66.1	36.5	1.0	r66.6	r367.3
July p	r32.1	35.9	r74.2	r54.0	r59.8	0.3	r142.9	r111.5
August p	26.1	28.3	62.2	36.8	21.5	0.8	19.7	41.7
September p	36.6	36.1	144.6	69.1	11.9	1.6	9.5	32.8
October p	14.5	22.6	179.4	100.0	86.6	7.7	22.2	84.6
November(c) p	93.6	27.2	295.0	222.9	92.7	9.6	17.6	160.6

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (c) See footnote (d) to Table 1.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) : WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1978	970.8	468.1	360.3	79.1	197.9	35.4	2,130.8
1979	1,369.9	1,486.1	467.9	186.5	348.1	59.8	3,964.4
1980	1,208.6	1,115.4	618.7	59.4	191.0	91.5	3,320.2
<i>1980—</i>							
October	104.7	47.0	46.6	7.0	13.3	34.0	254.2
November	120.8	55.6	33.6	7.1	14.5	17.0	250.1
December	53.7	41.0	13.9	0.2	12.6	0.9	126.7
<i>1981—</i>							
January	63.8	9.2	12.2	0.9	2.1	1.6	89.8
February	218.0	40.7	26.5	7.5	15.8	2.5	318.8
March	129.6	49.6	40.6	5.6	17.8	0.5	248.1
April	87.0	41.7	27.1	7.5	7.2	0.2	176.2
May	121.8	36.0	29.4	4.6	15.3	1.0	216.4
June	144.5	r99.3	r68.2	r20.0	r26.0	r3.1	r367.3
July p	129.1	r132.9	r89.6	r48.3	r64.0	r18.7	r510.8
August p	109.3	44.5	37.6	6.5	24.3	5.7	237.1
September p	148.2	105.9	39.1	7.6	20.4	6.9	342.2
October p	198.8	233.1	27.6	17.3	20.0	8.6	517.6
November(c) p	452.1	354.7	58.9	21.5	19.7	11.2	919.2

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) See footnote (d) to Table 1.